

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04594 312103Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 PC-01 /076 W
-----011745Z 107736 /43
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2303

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4594

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: HOME MINISTER COMMENTS ON ESPIONAGE CASE

REF: A-NEW DELHI 3234, B. NEW DELHI 3223 AND PREVIOUS

1. 1. ACCORDING TO A SAMACHAR REPORT, HOME MINISTER CHARAN SINGH ASSURED THE LOK SABHA MARCH 31 THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE HOUSE INTO CONFIDENCE REGARDING ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES UNEARTHED RECENTLY (REFTEL) ONCE THE INVESTIGATIONS WERE COMPLETED. FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, SINGH SAID, IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DISCLOSE THE FACTS AT THIS STAGE.

2. THE ISSUE WAS RAISED IN THE LOK SABHA BY TWO JANATA PARTY MEMBERS, SHYAM SUNDER DAS AND KANWAR LAL GUPTA, AND CPM LEADER JYORTIRMOY BOSU. MEM
DAS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE
GOVT SHOULD NOT TAKE SHELTER BEHIND THE ARGUMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND THAT A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF BOTH RULING AND OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS SHOULD BE SET UP TO INVESTIGATE THE ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. REFERRING TO THE ARREST OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY OF FORMER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER AND NOW CONGRESS PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER Y.B. CHAVAN, DAS SUGGESTED THAT CHAVAN MAKE A PERSONAL EXPLANATION. BOSU REMINDED THE LOK SABHA
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THAT MRS. GANDHI'S GOVT HAD NOT ACCEDED TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS IN THE PAST FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES LIKE THE CIA. ACCORDING TO SAMACHAR, "MR. BOSU MENTIONED THE NAMES OF SEVERAL MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND PERSONS IN INDIA AND OUTSIDE TO PRESS HIS POINT THAT FOREIGN ESPIONAGE AGENCIES WERE ACTIVE IN ALL SPHERES OF NATIONAL LIFE". GUPTA REPORTEDLY ASKED WHETHER IT

WAS A FACT THAT TWO AMERICANS WERE DECLARED PERSONNA NON GRATA AND
TURNED OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENT CASE.
HE THOUGHT THE QUESTION OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVIS SHOULD BE TAKEN
UP AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND AN INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT
ENVOLVED.

3. THE HOME MINISTER REPORTEDLY ASKED LOK SABHA MEMBERS TO HAND
OVER TO THE GOVT ANY INFORMATION THEY HAD "IN THIS MATTER" FOR
INVESTIGATION. HE ALSO AGREED WITH MR. BOSU THAT THE ISSUE WAS
SERIOUS, BUT SAID THAT THE GOVT COULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION BEFORE
COMPLETING THE INVESTIGATIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD PLACE BEFORE
THE HOUSE THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION WHEN THEY WERE
COMPLETED.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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